A

CONTINUATION

OF THE

PRDICTIONS

For the Remaining Part of the

YEAR 1708.

From the Month of *September*, till the Month of *March*, which compleats the whole Year; wherein the Month, and day of the Month are set down, the Persons nam'd, and the great Actions and Events of the next year, particularly related as they will come to pass.

Written to prevent the People of *England*, from being farther impos'd on by Vulgar *Almanack-Makers*.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, *Esq*;
Jonathan Swift

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by *H. Hills* in *Black Fryers*, near the Water-side. 1708.

Harvard College Library
Sept. 22, 1906
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A Continuation of the Predictions for the remaining part of the YEAR, 1708, &c.

HAving found, by the Reception, which my Predictions from *March*, to the end of *September*, have met with, that I am no ways distasteful to the Publick, and the Importunities of Friends are of much more weight than the most fix'd Resolutions, I have been forc'd to set my self to Work sooner than I design'd, and to look into the Events of the end of a Year, which has given us such Amazing Results of Astrological Knowledge, in its *Vernal* and *Summer* Quarters.

But before I enter into the Detail of more material Occurrences, I must ask the Reader not to hold me in the wrong, if I Answer some Objections that have been made to my last, which, though of little moment, if duly consider'd, may have a more than ordinary Influence upon such as will not give themselves time for well digested Reflections.

In the first place I am charg'd with pointing out the *Day and Hour of Death*, which the *Scripture* says, *no Man knoweth*, and upon that Account tax'd with the highest Presumption. In Answer to which, I must beg leave to distinguish, upon the latter part of the Text, *No Man knoweth*, and produce what the Commentators have said on that Head: Which is, that God withholds that Knowledge from Mankind, *quatenus* Mankind, as inscrutable by such as are of Corrupt and Deprav'd Natures; but sometimes Condescends out of his especial Grace and Favour, to Communicate his

Divine

Divine Influence to ſome particular Perſons, and teaches them how to *call the Stars by their Names*, and deduce *Certaintys* from thoſe Orbs which to Men of leſs Enlighten'd Capacitys are of *uncertain Stations*.

Secondly. As I was before cenſur'd for want of Chriſtianity, and not giving my Aſſent to what has been penn'd down to us in ſacred Writ, ſo I am Arraign'd for want of Charity, and Condemn'd unheard, for diſpiriting her Majeſty's *Subjects*, by pointing out the time when they are to die, and putting them into a Conſternation concerning their latter end. To reply to this, requires no more than that I ought to have their thanks for ſo doing, for from hence they are awaken'd into a true ſenſe of their mortal Condition, and have caution'd to prepare themſelves for another World, though I hear my Friend *John Partridge*, takes other Meaſures, and is Tooth and Nail at Work in compoſing a Medicine call'd *Elixir Lethifugum*, or the *Death-driving Elixir*, to chaſe the Fate away which he is threatned with on the 29th of *March* next. I have conſulted the Planets more diſtinctly ſince my laſt, and find by the Inclination of *Berenice*'s Hair, towards the *North-Pole*, an Indication that has never yet fail'd me, that he gives up the Ghoſt at a Quarter after Eleven at Night, to leſs than a ſecond of a Minute, and if I might adviſe him, he ſhould rather fling by his intended Preparations, and fall a lamenting his ſins of Rebellion, than attempt to alter what is unchangeable, ſince if he is minded not to die before the time appointed, the only Method he is to make uſe of for ſo doing, is not to take his own Medicines. I have another Reply to this Objection; which is, granting that this Fellow is her Majeſty's ſubject, and one or two more put into the Dead Warrant in my laſt, I have made the Nation amends, in killing more of our Enemies, than treble the Number, and Perſons of much greater Quality than we are likely to loſe by theſe Predictions; if our Inteſtine Diviſions don't make *Sa-*

gitarius give *Orion* the slip in the Winter-Quarter, and by that means leave us defenceless in one Element that shall be successful in another.

Other Objections, I might say Cavils, have been rais'd against the Justice of my Design, but these are dismiss'd without Answer, till my Latin Book in Folio comes out, entituled, *De Naturâ & certitudine Rerum Astrologicarum Libri duo*, which I design to dedicate to the Right Reverend and most Learned the L. B. of *W.* contenting my self in the mean while with giving the Occurrences from the Month of *October*, till *March*, which are all that are wanting for the year, 1708.

OCTOBER.

The 13th of this Month will be remarkable for the K. of *Sweden's* making his publick Entrance into *Moscow*, after having defeated the *Czar*, in a pitch'd Battel, Six Leagues from the Celebrated City on the 9th. The 15th will be signaliz'd in the taking of *Ipres* from the *French*, after 22 days Open Trenches, in the sight of their whole Army. The 23d, in the detection of Evil Practices, against a certain Government, the Authors of which will be Imprison'd, and suffer according to their Demirits. 24th the City Poet will dye for Grief that the Lord-Mayors have left off being haranegued from gilded Pageants, in most Heroical Metre, and the 31 will conclude the Month with the Death of an Alderman that had exercis'd his Grinders too laboriously at a City Feast on the 29th.

NOVEMBER.

Opens it self with very hard Frosts, and the first day of it gives us an account of P. *Ragotski's* being taken Prisoner in his endeavouring to relieve *Newhausel*, then distressed, and afterwards taken by the *Imperialists*. Heavens preserve a certain great Potentate on the 2d, for his emissaries in his Court that threaten his life, if not timely prevented. *Dii talem avertite pestem.* The 8th will

be rendred famous by burning the great Magazines of Hay and Oats, at *Strasburgh*, and the Death of the Mareschal de *Villars*, who shall dye of an Asthma to the great Joy of the *Imperialists*, whose Countrys have suffer'd by his Depradations, and great disappointment of the young *French* King and his whole Ministry. The 17th, the Elector of *Bavaria* shall make Overtures to come into the Grand Alliance, but shall not be trusted. *Equo ne Credite Teucri.* There's something more in his Mean than you may imagine, and he that has let the *French* into his Country once, may play the same Game again if in his power. Notable News upon my Faith, the Famous Beau *Fielding, alias* Major General, dies on the 21st for Love of his dear Dutchess, and buried in every bodies Thoughts before his Herse carries him to the Grave. The 27th is likewise *signa signanda Lupillo*, for the Death of a certain Accomptant-General, that hated *Tom Double*, till he play'd his Part himself, and was always against Occasional Conformity till he came to know the Sweets of it. The 29th a certain Fleet will be in danger in its return from the *Streights*, but through the Vigilance of the Admiral shall come safe into Port, with little or no damage. The *Dragon* points also with her Tail on a Seaport Country Northwards of *England*, and seems to foretel Disturbances on that side, but those that have the direction of publick Affairs soon put a stop to them, and all Things are reduc'd to their first Tranquillity and Order.

DECEMBER. The Duke of *Mantua*'s Negotiations for a Peace having prov'd successless, and the *French* Endeavours been in vain to make a Rupture between the *Germans* and the *Turks*, a great Council is held at *Versailles* on the 2d, where, in consideration of the ill Condition of their Affairs, it is determin'd to make Overtures of Evacuating *Spain*, and all the Dominions belonging to it in the Old and New World;

and

and accordingly three Mareschals of *France* (the Stars do not tell me their Names) set out for the *Hague* on the 9th, to Communicate the Proposals of that Court. The 11th brings News of the Submission of the Kingdoms of *Arragon* and *Valentia* with their Capitals, and the Reduction of *Badajos* by the *Portugueze*, in which Siege the Lord *Paston*'s Regiment shall signalize it self by first Storming the Breach, and taking the Marquis *de Bay* Prisoner. The 15th, nine *English* Men of War shall meet with the *Dunkirk* Squadron off of *Ostend*, and after three Hours Engagement sink five and take three, without the loss of one Ship on their side. The 19th proves fatal to the Czar of *Muscovy*, who finding himself strip'd of a great part of his Country by the Victorious *Swedes*, and unable to make a stand against them, falls into a deep Melancholy of which he dies, and is succeeded by his Son, after having been as little lamented by his Subjects as his Enemies. The 24th gives hopes of a Peace between the Young Czar and the King of *Sweden*, which succeeds a Truce that commences this day, to the Joy of both their Subjects. The 27th brings us the Arrival of a great Prince, who is highly Caressed by the *British* Court, and dismiss'd with the greatest Satisfaction imaginable to his own Country.

JANUARY. A certain great Lawyer goes as a New-Years Gift to the Grave on the First of this Month. Had he been as honest as he was Learn'd in the Law, it would be better for him at another Tribunal; where he must not appear as Judge, but Criminal. The 12th will bring us News of the Duke of *Vendosme*'s fine House at *Aret* being burn'd down, and sack'd through the Rage of the Populace, who are provok'd against him as the chief Promoter of the War. The 13th the Duke of *Berry* is dangerously hurt in being dismounted from his Horse in the Chase of a Wild Boar. The 18th brings over the Duke of *Mantua* to implore her Majesty of *Great Britain*'s gracious Intercession

ceſſion in his Behalf at the Concluſion of a General Peace, but I am to ſeek what Anſwer the Queen gives him, being not let into the Myſteries of the *Britiſh* Court. The Month terminates in the going and coming of Couriers to and from the *Hague*. And on the 31ſt nothing ſo much talk'd of as a ſpeedy Peace.

FEBRUARY. The 8th of this Month makes us acquainted or threatned with a great Fire, in *Warwickſhire*, *Glocesterſhire*, or *Worceſterſhire*, which of them it is not the power of Art to determine, though I viſibly foreſee it from the Tails of the *Two Dogs* which incline towards thoſe three Counties; therefore it behoves them to be upon their Guard. On the 7th your *Old Friend Dr. Caſe*, that has been ſo often in for the Grand P—— departs this Life, after having been ſuffocated by the Steams of his own Ointments. The 14th the Princeſs Royal of *Pruſſia* ſhall be brought to Bed of another young Prince, to the great Joy of that Court; and King *Charles* the Third's Queen of a Prince of the *Aſturias* on the 17th. The 19th brings us News of a Glorious Peace, whereby the Confederate Intereſt is ſo ſtrengthned, and the Proteſtant Religion ſo fix'd upon a ſtrong Bulwark, that the Power of *France*, nor the Gates of Hell, can ever prevail againſt it. Nothing but Rejoicing for the reſt of this Month, all other Occurrences are drown'd in the Satisfaction of ſeeing that happy Day, when we ſhall have a Free Trade with *Spain*, and ſhare with them in the Wealth of the *Weſt-Indies*. So God Bleſs Queen *Anne*, for bringing Matters about as they now ſtand, and making the courſe of Nature wear ſuch a promiſing Face. As for you Reader, I take my leave of you, till I preſent you with my Calculations for the Year 1709, which will be of equal Certainty with theſe I have now ſubmitted to your peruſal, if my Skill don't fail me.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

HAving, since the Writing of this, met with a Couple of illiterate Answers to my former *Predictions*, one in *Octavio*, and the other in *Folio*, under the Name of Dr. *Partridge*; this is to acquaint those two unworthy Scoundrels, that I have consulted the Stars for their Names, and find one of them to be *Rich. Bell*, formerly Running Stationer to Mr. *Bradford* the Printer; and the other *Richard Burridge*, a Fellow that drew Drink on the Common-side of *Newgate*. As for the Day of their Death, I find Nature took so little notice of them at their Creation, that as they come by chance into the World, so 'tis ten to one but they go unexpectly, and without notice, out of it. Only this I dare be bold to say, That as the first is just got out of the *Savoy*, after having been Listed for a Vagabond, and at the Expence of Ten Pounds and two able Men to serve in his Place, so the last will be taken up under the same Denomination, and sent on Board the Fleet on the 24th of next *March*, in spight of the Patch he wears over one of his Eyes to counterfeit himself disabled and unfit for Service.

FINIS.